

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: March 25, 2010
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Traffic Stop Nets 20 Pounds of Ecstasy

YAKIMA – At approximately 11:45 p.m. on March 23, a Washington State Patrol trooper stopped a 2003 Cadillac sedan for speeding on Interstate 82 in Yakima. Upon contact the trooper noticed the fresh odor of marijuana coming from inside the car. After gaining information investigating the possession of marijuana the vehicle was seized in order to obtain a search warrant.

A warrant was served on the vehicle. During the search of the vehicle troopers located a suitcase containing 20 pounds of Ecstasy and one kilo of Methamphetamine; both are controlled substances.

Pursuant to the arrest troopers seized \$15,000 in cash, the Cadillac, a small amount of marijuana and cocaine, and the Ecstasy and Methamphetamine.

Both occupants of the vehicle were booked into the Yakima County Jail for Possession of Controlled Substances and Possession with Intent to Deliver.

Driver: Elpidia Vargas, a 27-year old female of Grandview
Passenger: Jesus F. Torres, a 20 year male also of Grandview

Twenty pounds of Ecstasy, approximately 272,000 pills, has a street value of about 5.5 million dollars.

One kilo of Methamphetamine has an approximate street value of \$55,000.



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